



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 8

999 18TH STREET - SUITE 500

DENVER, CO 80202-2466

Ref: 8EPR-ER

OCT 12 1998

ACTION MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Documentation of a Time Critical Removal Action
Approval at the R.J. Refinery, in the town of LaBarge,
Wyoming.

TO: Site File

FROM: Joyce Ackerman, On-Scene Coordinator
Emergency Response Team

THROUGH: Steve Hawthorn
Response Team Leader

Doug Skie, Director
Preparedness, Assessment, & Emergency Response Program

Max H. Dodson, Assistant Regional Administrator
Office of Ecosystems Protection & Remediation

Site ID#: 4T

Category of Removal: Time-Critical, Fund-Lead

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Action Memorandum is to document approval of the proposed Removal Action described herein for the R.J. Refinery (Site) which is located in the town of LaBarge, Wyoming. The response will be initiated under the On-Scene Coordinator's (OSC) \$50,000 authority and will address the need to mitigate the threats to human health and the environment posed by laboratory chemicals stored at an abandoned refinery, some of which have started to crystallize. The Site meets the criteria for initiating a Removal Action under 40 CFR, Section 300.415(b)(2) of the National Contingency Plan (NCP) and is anticipated to require less than 12 months and two million dollars to complete.



II. SITE CONDITIONS AND BACKGROUND

A. Site Description

1. Removal site evaluation

In March, 1998, the State of Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WYDEQ) requested assistance from EPA's Emergency Response Team in evaluating an abandoned petroleum refinery in LaBarge, Wyoming. EPA and WYDEQ conducted site visits and interviewed former refinery employees and residents in the town. During a site visit, EPA and WYDEQ discovered a small laboratory in a quonset hut at the Site where approximately 75 to 100 bottles of chemicals are stored. Labels on the bottles show that the contents are a variety of flammables, oxidizers, and acids. A gallon-size bottle of acid appears to be crystallizing. This removal action will consist of removing these chemicals from the Site and disposing of them properly.

EPA has initiated an investigation at the Site to determine whether there is any soil or groundwater contamination or any other condition which may pose a threat to human health or the environment. One groundwater sample has shown elevated levels of lead, mercury, cadmium and chromium, but more extensive sampling is required in order to complete the removal evaluation. EPA will install groundwater monitoring wells to assess groundwater contamination. If any additional time-critical threats are discovered during the ongoing investigation, this Action Memorandum will be amended for any new removal actions deemed necessary.

2. Physical location

The Site is located in the town of LaBarge, at or near 723 Calpet Road, Lincoln County, Wyoming. The town has approximately 400 residents. The land use adjacent to the site is primarily residential. There are several residences directly across the street from the Site and a residential trailer court on property adjacent to the Site.

3. Site characteristics

The Site is an abandoned petroleum refinery. The refinery stored and processed a variety of petroleum products, and facility operations included blending gasoline with tetraethyl lead. An abandoned retail gas station is

located at the Site. Some of the aboveground tanks contain unknown quantities of tank bottoms. Former employees stated that two drums of unknown material were buried adjacent to the firewater pond at the Site. A town resident stated he believed materials had been buried along a depression at the Site; this possibility will be checked during EPA's ongoing investigation.

The Site property owner listed in County records is deceased. No person is maintaining the facility, although a creditor to the deceased property owner has reportedly allowed persons to lease buildings at the Site for storage purposes. None of these lessees is maintaining the Site, except for their personal belongings.

The Site is not fenced. There are several residential properties directly across the street from the Site and a residential trailer court on property adjacent to the Site.

4. Release or threatened release into the environment of a hazardous substance, or pollutant or contaminant

There are approximately 75 to 100 bottles of chemicals located in the chemical laboratory. Labels on the bottles indicated a variety of chemicals including but not limited to sulfuric acid, sodium hydroxide, hydrogen peroxide, toluene, acetone, potassium chromate, hexane, and hydrochloric acid. The abandoned chemical laboratory poses a fire and explosion threat to nearby residential properties, as well as a direct contact threat to any vandals who might enter the quonset hut.

5. NPL status

This Site is not an NPL Site. The Site Assessment Program will review data gathered during the removal evaluation to determine whether to propose the site for an NPL listing.

B. Other Actions to Date

1. Previous actions

There have been no other actions previously taken by EPA regarding this Site that are not already discussed in this Action Memorandum.

2. Current actions

There are no other current actions by EPA regarding this Site that are not already discussed in this Action Memorandum.

C. State and Local Authorities' Roles

1. State and local actions to date

The State WYDEQ has requested EPA's assistance and will be kept apprised of the progress.

2. Potential for continued State/local response

Neither the State nor local authorities have the resources to conduct removal and disposal of the hazardous waste at this time. The State is assisting in determining potentially responsible parties and interviewing former refinery employees and nearby residents.

III. THREATS TO PUBLIC HEALTH OR WELFARE OR THE ENVIRONMENT, AND STATUTORY AND REGULATORY AUTHORITIES

A. Threats to Public Health or Welfare

The conditions at the Site present an imminent and substantial threat to human health and the environment and meet the following criteria for initiating a Removal Action under Section 300.415(b)(2) of the NCP:

(i) Actual or potential exposure of hazardous substances to nearby populations;

(ii) Threat of fire or explosion;

(iii) The (lack of) availability of other appropriate federal or state mechanisms to respond to the release.

There are approximately 75 to 100 bottles of chemicals stored in the laboratory. Labels on the bottles indicated a variety of chemicals, including but not limited to sulfuric acid, sodium hydroxide, toluene, acetone, potassium chromate, hexane, and hydrochloric acid. The materials include acids, flammables, oxidizers, and poisons. These are hazardous substances as defined by section 104(14) of CERCLA.

B. Threats to the Environment

Specific threats to wildlife and plants have not been evaluated at this time. It is uncertain whether wildlife in the surrounding habitats are currently being adversely affected by the contaminants present on or off-site.

IV. ENDANGERMENT DETERMINATION

Actual or threatened releases of hazardous substances from this Site, if not addressed by implementing the response action selected in this Action Memorandum may present an imminent and substantial endangerment to public health or welfare, or the environment.

V. PROPOSED ACTIONS AND ESTIMATED COSTS

A. Proposed Actions

1. Proposed action description

This removal action will consist of removing the laboratory chemicals from the quonset hut, sampling unlabeled bottles to categorize them according to hazard, overpacking the chemicals in drums per the disposal facility's specifications, and transporting them to the disposal facility.

2. Contribution to remedial performance

The proposed actions will not affect any future remedial actions.

3. Description of alternative technologies

No alternative technologies are currently proposed for this Removal Action.

4. EE/CA

This is a Time-Critical Removal Action; thus, an EE/CA is not required.

5. Applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements (ARARs)

This Removal Action will attain, to the extent practicable, considering the exigencies of the situation, applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements (ARARs)

of federal environmental or more stringent State environmental or facility-siting laws. Following is a list of ARARs that have been identified to date for this Removal Action:

FEDERAL

- a. Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), Subtitle C, including waste determination, labeling, manifesting and disposal requirements.
 - b. DOT Hazardous Material Transportation Regulations (49 CFR Parts 107, 171-177), including preparation of hazardous materials for transport.
6. Project schedule

Work on this Removal Action is expected to begin during October of 1998 and completed during November of 1998.

B. Estimated Costs

Cost Estimate: A table containing cost estimates for the Removal project ceiling is shown below.

EXTRAMURAL COSTS:

Regional Allowance Costs

START	\$ 4,000
Emergency Response Cleanup/ Treatment/Disposal Costs	\$ 15,000
20% Extramural Costs Contingency	<u>\$ 3,800</u>
TOTAL, EXTRAMURAL COSTS	\$ 22,800

INTRAMURAL COSTS:

Intramural Direct Costs	\$ 3,000
Intramural Indirect Costs	<u>\$ 2,000</u>
TOTAL, INTRAMURAL COSTS	\$ 5,000

<u>TOTAL REMOVAL PROJECT CEILING</u>	<u>\$27,800</u>
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VI. EXPECTED CHANGE IN THE SITUATION SHOULD ACTION BE DELAYED OR NOT TAKEN

Delayed or no action will increase public health risks and threats to the environment because local residents have seen trespassers at the Site, who may come in contact with the chemicals in the future, and the chemicals will continue to age and degrade, increasing the fire and explosion threat.

VII. OUTSTANDING POLICY ISSUES

None.

VIII. ENFORCEMENT

A confidential Enforcement Addendum is included with this Action Memorandum as Attachment A.

IX. RECOMMENDATION

This decision document represents the selected Removal Action for the R.J. Refinery Site, LaBarge, Wyoming, developed in accordance with CERCLA, as amended, and consistent with the NCP. This decision is based on the administrative record for the Site.

Conditions at the Site meet the NCP Section 300.415(b)(2) criteria for a Removal, and is authorized under the OSC's response authority for Removal Actions under \$50,000. The total project ceiling will be \$27,800. Of this, an estimated \$22,800 comes from the Regional removal allowance.


On-Scene Coordinator

10-8-98
Date

Attachments: Attachment A - Enforcement Addendum